

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification and claims 1-7 have been amended. Claim 8 has been added.

Claims 1-8 are pending and under consideration.

CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification has been reviewed in response to this Office Action. Changes have been made to the specification only to place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance and to resolve the Examiner's objections raised in the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1, 4, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. The claims have been amended to improve clarity and antecedent support and address the rejections presented in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to the claims be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at page 3, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,427,176 to Berglund ("Berglund"). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Berglund generally describes an electronic device having subsystems (peripherals) and a method of managing the subsystems. See column 5, lines 15-25. The device stores hardware information including peripheral unit information in addition to system information (OS) in a CMOS. In the device, VPD (vital product data) is stored when the system is configured or updated by adding new components by the user. According to the invention, the device senses hardware changes in chassis subsystems and updates software changes based on the stored information, thereby making it possible to rearrange slot labels, wherein one or more card devices are plugged into the respective slots on a back-plane in the device. See column 6, lines 14-24.

According to an aspect of the present invention, a peripheral unit management system, a method of managing peripheral units and a program recording medium therefor are provided. In an embodiment of the invention, the management, the management system and a plurality of

peripheral units are mutually connected via a local area network (LAN), the peripheral units being connected to the LAN with their respective LAN cards having a connecting function to the LAN. The system updates data in a peripheral unit when both a LAN card and a main body of the peripheral unit have been replaced, while the system reuses previously accumulated data in a peripheral unit when only a LAN card of the peripheral unit has been replaced but a main body of the peripheral unit has not been replaced.

According to Berglund, a service person can obtain updated device configuration information because the device stores updated component location information. On the other hand, according to the Invention, the management system can reuse data accumulated for any of the peripheral units in which a LAN card has been replaced because, as recited in claim 1, the system stores "data being accumulated in for the peripheral unit with the new address information after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information when the determining unit determines that the peripheral unit has not been replaced," as recited in independent claim 1. Similarly, independent claims 4 and 7 recite, "storing the data accumulated in the peripheral unit with the new address information after setting the property information to correspond to the new address information when determining that the peripheral unit has not been replaced." Therefore, according to the present invention, management of articles of consumption and maintenance of the peripheral unit can be appropriately accomplished. It is respectfully asserted that the cited reference fails to teach or suggest all the claimed features of independent claims 1, 4, and 7. It is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 4, and 7, and related dependent claims be allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

In the Office Action, at page 6, claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Berglund. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Because claims 3 and 6 depend from independent claims 1 and 4, respectively, the arguments presented above supporting the patentability of independent claims 1 and 4 are incorporated herein to support the patentability of related dependent claims 3 and 6.

It is respectfully asserted that the cited reference fails to teach or suggest all the claimed features of independent claims 1 and 4. It is respectfully requested that independent claims 1 and 4, and related dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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